CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo

Other known title(s): Män Som Hatar Kvinnor
Men Who Hate Women

OFLC ref: 1000877.000

Medium: DVD

Distributor: Rialto Distribution

Director: Niels Arden Opley

Producer: Søren Stærmose

Country of origin: Sweden

Language: Swedish

Applicant: J Clark

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Brutal sexual violence, graphic violence and sex scenes

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 25 June 2010

Date of direction to issue a label: 24 June 2010

	Components	**Running time**
Feature(s):	The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo	146:31
Total running time:		146:31

Summary of reasons for decision:

The classification of the DVD 'The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo' has been reconsidered, and it is now classified as objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The DVD contains a Swedish thriller that is based on the first book in a best-selling series. It was originally examined by the Classification Office in November 2009, and was classified as R16, with the descriptive note 'Contains violence, sexual violence, and offensive language' (OFLC Ref. 0901454.000).

The DVD was submitted for reconsideration of its classification under s42(3)(b) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act). It was submitted by a member of the public who was one of a number who had earlier complained to the Classification Office about the R16 classification given to the film version of the publication. The Chief Censor found that there were special circumstances that justified reconsideration of the classification, and granted leave to submit the publication. The special circumstances were the unusually large number of complaints, the consistency and cogency of their arguments, and the higher classification given to this film in a number of comparable overseas jurisdictions.

Having reconsidered the classification, the Classification Office is of the opinion that the DVD requires restriction to an adult audience. Its unrestricted availability is likely to be injurious to the public good because of its treatment of matters of violence, especially in the form of sexual violence, and also cruelty and crime. While viewers of all ages will be shocked and disturbed by the treatment of rape and the overall strength of the violence, children and teenagers are particularly more likely to have difficulty cognitively and emotionally processing the disturbing scenes. Adults have the experience and maturity to put the disturbing scenes into a coherent context, and are less likely to be unduly influenced.

The Classification Office has considered the effects of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 on the application of all the classification criteria. The publication's classification is reasonable, justified and in accordance with the law. This limitation on the publication's availability is the minimum restriction that can be applied in order to prevent likely injury to the public good.